

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

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R 170828Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L 4031

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: SARG USING CPS AS EMISSARY TO BAGHDAD

1. BLOC MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD DATT OCT. 15 THAT SYRIANS WERE TRYING TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND HAD RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO DO SO THROUGH MEDIUM OF SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. HE SAID SYRIAN DELEGATION LED BY DEPSEC GEN CPS YUSUF FAYSAL HAD RECENTLY VISITED BAGHDAD AT ASAD'S BEHEST WITH GENERALLY UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS AND ADDED THAT IRAQI-SYRIAN RELATIONS WAS ONE OF MAIN ITEMS ON ASAD'S AGENDA DURING RECENT TRIP TO MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, BAATH PARTY ENMITIES ARE SO STRONG THAT ONLY COMMUNIST PARTY IN DAMASCUS SEEN AS SUITABLE INTERMEDIARY.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIST PARTIES OF SYRIA AND IRAQ APPEAR TO HAVE MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACTS THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE BAATHI LEADERS. (EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN TEXT OF JOINT
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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY COMMUNIST PARTIES OF SYRIA AND

IRAQ FOLLOWING VISIT BY SECGEN KHALID BAKDASH, DEPSECGEN YUSUF FAYSAL, AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ABD AL-WAHHAB RASHWANI TO IRAQ MARCH 6-10, 1975. WE ALSO HAVE AL-NAHAR REPORT FROM APRIL 1975 WHICH REPORTED ON SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES HELD EARLIER SAME MONTH ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM LEBANON, JORDAN, TUNISIA, SUDAN, SYRIA AND IRAQ.) SINCE CPS ALSO PARTICIPATES IN SARG THROUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT, IT WAS A LOGICAL INTERMEDIARY TO INITIATE CONTACTS AIMED AT RECONCILIATION. IT IS ALSO REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT ASAD WANTED TO ENLIST SOVIET SUPPORT IN THIS EFFORT. MURPHY

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